



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
National Bureau of Standards  
Washington, D.C. 20234

Institute for Computer  
Sciences and Technology

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MEMORANDUM FOR FIPS Points of Contact  
FIPSCAC

From: Harry S. White, Jr., Associate Director  
for ADP Standards

*Harry S. White, Jr.*

Subject: Standardization of "Automatically Programmed Tool"  
(APT) Language

A Federal Information Processing Standards Task Group is now being formed as FIPS Task Group 19 for the standardization of APT. (APT is an English-like programming language for describing operations for numerically controlled machines. The APT program is processed by the computer into an ordered set of instructions for numerically controlled machines.) In that the American National Standards Institute (ANSI) Committee X3J7 is now in the process of issuing a revision to American National Standard APT-X3.37, it is important that we have government considerations as input to this standard; particularly, if it is to be adopted for Federal use. The Scope and Program of Work of TG 19 are attached. The initial meeting of the task group will be April 15th at the National Bureau of Standards in Gaithersburg, MD. The meeting will begin at 9:00 a.m. in Room B-255 (Technology Building). You are invited to designate representatives from your organization to participate in the work on APT standards.

Please inform Dr. John Evans, NBS, Executive Secretary of the task group of your plans to participate and the names of your designated representatives. Dr. Evans' phone number is (301) 921-2381.

Your continued interest and support of the Federal Information Processing Standards Program are most appreciated.

Attachment

cc: John Evans

SINCE WE HAVE NO APT  
IN-HOUSE, I PHONED DR. EVANS  
(08:40 HRS 10 APR 75) AND  
INFORMED HIM WE DO NOT  
PLAN TO PARTICIPATE  
IN APT STANDARD-



FIPS TASK GROUP 19  
APT Programming Language Standard

Scope: Develop recommendations to the National Bureau of Standards for a Federal APT Standard which is responsive to Government users needs. Establish a dialogue with the Government APT community that insures a wide spectrum of user participation in the work of the task group. Maintain the Federal APT Standard consistent with Government users needs. Cooperate with and participate in American National Standards Institute (ANSI) Committee efforts to develop a voluntary industry standard for APT.

Program of Work:

1. Develop recommendations concerning the suitability of the proposed revision to American National Standard APT (ANS X3.37-1974) specifications as a Federal Standard.
2. Identify and prepare changes to the Federal Standard APT to keep it responsive to Government users needs.
3. Study the need and feasibility of subsets of the Federal APT Standard. Develop recommendations for Federal APT standard subsets.
4. Monitor voluntary industry standards efforts on APT. Develop as appropriate recommendations for consideration in subsequent revisions to the APT standard.

March 11, 1975

STATINTL

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